

# MASSACHUSETTS BROADBAND INITIATIVE

Broadband access impacts our economic competitiveness and civic vitality. Massachusetts must continue to invest in infrastructure that extends broadband availability and adoption.

Created by the Governor via the Broadband Act of 2008, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) is a division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative working to expand access to and adoption of high-speed Internet technologies, in order that our residents, businesses, and communities may participate more fully in the global digital economy.



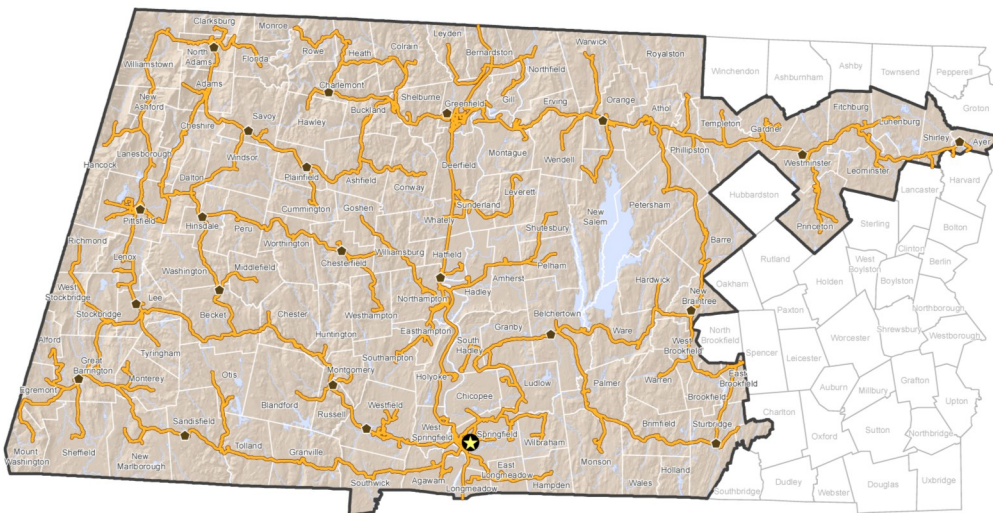
## MassBroadband 123

Through state and federal investment, the MBI built, and now operates, a fiber backbone for western and central Massachusetts called *MassBroadband 123*. *MassBroadband 123* provides direct high-speed Internet connectivity to 1,200 community anchor institutions, including schools, libraries, town halls, and public safety facilities. It also provides a platform for more businesses and homes to get online.

**1,200**  
miles of new fiber

**123**  
cities & towns

Connecting over  
**1,100**  
local facilities



## Extending Broadband Availability & Adoption

### *Broadband Adoption*

The MBI run programs to help residents and businesses access and use broadband, helping people more fully engage in civic life and our global economy. The MBI administers a small business technical assistance program with four regional Community Development Corporations geographically dispersed throughout the Commonwealth.



Through creation of the MassVetsAdvisor.org portal, veterans and military families can now access a centralized, one-stop resource for state and federal benefits and programs. MassVetsAdvisor is a national model for supporting military veterans and encourages all generations of veterans and their families to use the Internet to gain information about the benefits they deserve.



### *What's Ahead: Last Mile Initiative*

Leveraging the fiber backbone provided by *MassBroadband 123* and \$50 Million in new state investment from the 2014 IT Bond Bill, in fall 2014, the MBI recently launched a multi-year 'last mile' initiative to further extend residential high-speed Internet access to Western Massachusetts communities and neighborhoods still lacking access. In 2015 and beyond, the MBI will be partnering with towns, community groups, industry, and state government to develop and co-invest in creative solutions that bring last-mile connectivity directly to more residents and businesses in the Western part of the state.